is dependent on total imports in the absence of any exploitable reserves of potash in the country.

(b) There was no import of urea during the last two years. However, in case of DAP, the percentage of demand met by import during 2002-03 and 2003-04.

(c) and (d) The Government has been pursuing policies which are conducive for encouraging investment in fertilizer sector so as to achieve self-sufficiency in meeting the indigenous requirement of major fertilizers. In case of urea, the Government has recently announced the pricing policy for investment to be made in (a) new and expansion projects of urea and (b) existing non-gas based urea units converting to natural gas/LNG for *feedstock/fuel. In Order to augment indigenous availability of urea,* IFFCO and KRIBHCO the multi-state cooperative societies, are setting up a joint venture in Sur, Oman with Oman oil Company and the entire production of 16.52 lakh MT of urea will be bought by the Government. On the other hand, installed capacity (54.20 lakh MT in nutrient terms) of phosphatic fertilizers is sufficient enough to meet the current level of requirement (average consumption of 46-47 lakh MT of last three years).

Recovery of overcharged amount

1063. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has sent notices to drug manufacturing companies for overcharging;

(b) if so, the details of notices sent and the amount overcharged by each of the manufacturers alongwith names of drugs; and

(c) the details of amount deposited by these companies?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) Till the 31st March, 2004, 184 notices for overcharging have been issued by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) towards an estimated overcharged amount and interest

thereon to the tune of Rs. 555 crores, out of which NPPA has recovered about Rs. 64 crores in 126 cases. In some cases the companies have filed cases against the notices issued by the NPPA in various courts in the country and in some cases, courts have passed interim orders restraining the NPPA from taking further action against the petitioner companies.

Bulk drugs production

1064. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that production of bulk drugs in terms of tonnage has declined during the last five years;

(b) whether it is also a fact that major drug companies have been allowed entry without setting up bulk drug production plants;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a number of bulk drugs producers have closed down their units;

(d) if so, whether Government are rectifying by making linkage of bulk drugs production to formulation production mandatory;

(e) whether bulk drug production units are proposed to be set up in Bihar; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) (a) to (d) As per the data available with National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) in respect of 96 bulk drugs produced in the organized Sector, based on the returns received from the Industry, the production of bulk drug remained almost static during the last five years. There is no provision in the Drugs (Price Control) order to compel bulk drugs production by formulation producer.

(e) and (f) At present there is no proposal for setting up any Public Sector unit in Bihar for bulk drug production.